

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's #
100-8

USGS Quad
Whitman

Area

Form #
25

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Town **Hanson**

Place

Address **63 East Washington Street**

Historic Name **Bowker House**

Use: Present **residence**

Original **residence**

Date **1856-1879**

Source **maps & White's Houses**

Style/Form **Italianate/mansard block**

Architect **N/A**

Exterior Material:

Foundation **granite**

Wall/Trim **clapboard**

Roof **asphalt**

Outbuildings **none**

Major Alterations **see description**

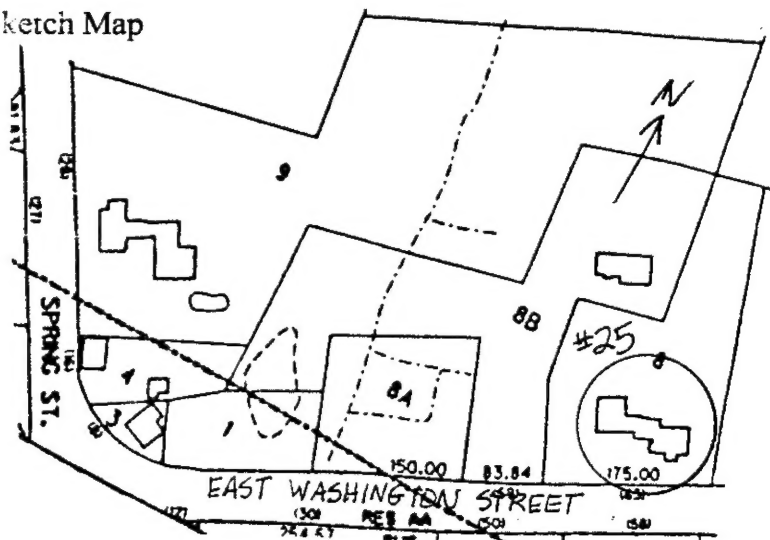
Condition **excellent**

Moved **no**

Acreage **40, 150 sq. ft.**

Setting **clustered residential**

Sketch Map



Recorded by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**

Organization **Hanson Historical
Commission**

Date **April 1996**

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Bowker House at 63 East Washington Street is a well-preserved, two-story mansard block in the Italianate style. Examples of this form and style of house, which was most popular in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, can be found scattered throughout Hanson (see Area form **G**) and New England, generally in the more densely settled parts of a community. The massing on the facade and at the forward piles of this three-bay wide by two-pile deep mansard block emphasizes the center entry and more public rooms on the interior. The center bay of the symmetrically fenestrated facade projects slightly beyond the facade plan and is further elaborated with a large, hip-roofed, entry porch. A pair of windows are centered in the mansard roof above the entry porch. The front rooms on either side of the center hall are augmented by polygonal bay windows on the side elevations. The mansard block is expanded further by the two-story service wing on the left-side elevation which is attached to the former carriage house. The carriage house has been altered to accommodate additional living space. The elaborate detailing is characteristic of the Italianate style and is continuous on all the massing elements. It includes paired-bracketed cornices, wide corner boards and elaborately decorated pedimented gabled dormers on the front and side elevations. The house is sited close to the street in a fairly densely settled area.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The area around the intersection of Spring and Washington streets has been one of Hanson's more densely settled areas since the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Consequently a diverse range of characteristic house forms and styles are present in this area (see Area form **A** , Form no. **26**). Historic maps indicate the Bowker House was constructed in the period 1856-1879. The house's original owner, Andrew Bowker, owned a shop immediately to the west of his house. In 1879 Bowker had stock in trade valued at \$2000 and the store building was valued at \$1200. At the same time the house and barn were valued at \$3500 and \$750, respectively, making them some of the higher valued buildings in Hanson at that time. There were several other shops located around this intersection indicating it was one of Hanson's primary commercial districts at least in the later part of the nineteenth century. Joseph White indicates Frank Ramsdell of South Abington built the house for Bowker in 1872. In 1889 the house was acquired by Frank Bourne at a foreclosure sale and he continued to own the house until sometime after 1932.

REFERENCES

Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830
Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856
Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879
Richards, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1903
White, Houses of Hanson
Town of Hanson Valuation Lists, 1834, 1856, 1879, 1903

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. See NR Criteria Statement form.

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Community
Hanson

Property Address
63 East Washington St.

Area

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible.

☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.

☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer.**

This property is significant as a well-preserved example of early building patterns in the town of Hanson, in a settlement configuration distinctive to the town and probably the region. Among the best examples of its type in town, it may be individually eligible but should be evaluated for its role in potential districts when its neighbors can be examined more carefully. The property meets criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.